13. **Measures on the whole.**—Since 1947, there has been constant demand from border people for relief and rehabilitation. Government undertook various measures to alleviate their difficulties. Government's attention to border problems has however, not been adequate. The common feeling of border people was that whenever the border problem deteriorated due to some adverse measure adopted by East Pakistan authorities more attention was attracted, on the other hand, when the situation eased comparatively the Government's vigilance also slackened.

The various measures so far adopted by Government in border area, have been fully discussed and commented upon by the Border Rehabilitation Committee. There need no repetition here. But a few points emerging from the memorials put forward by the villagers during our investigation are noted below.

On the question of the schemes linked up with the loss of diversification of agriculture in border area, a large section of the border people skilled in the maintenance and operation of orchards are opposed to the idea of a complete switch over from cash crops to food crops in the cultivation of which they have no adequate experience. Moreover, there is the problem of getting adequate land in the vicinity for such paddy cultivation. Indeed, having lost the market for some of the cash crops, some cultivators are trying to increase cultivation of paddy and other edible crops on their own initiative wherever suitable land is available. But the problem of getting adequate lands for reclamation and improvement of land has proved to a serious handicap to them. Financial assistance to the needy and willing cultivators for reclamation works and taking up of more minor irrigation projects is very necessary.

As regards Government loans granted to cultivators, people complained that apart from being inadequate they are also untimely. As a result the people, needy as they are, utilise the amount for meeting their day to day consumption expenses.

There have been complaints that various improved seeds supplied by Government are of very inferior quality leading to waste of time and money of the poor people. The Department of Agriculture should not only check the quality of the seeds before issue but should also see that the seed are properly used by inexperienced cultivators who are newly taking up cultivation of these crops.

With the opening up of a few vital P. W. D. Roads transport of border products to Darjiling and other places has greatly been facilitated but the problem of transporting from from remote interiors to the various head points on P. W. D. roads still remains unsolved. While during winter months these places may be negotiated by a mule or four up and down the steep gradients, during rainy season these roads become slippery, the animals and coolies are overtaxed and it becomes impossible for a man to move them, thus isolating the villages from each other leading to cessation of trade and all other activities between villages. Properly planned and solid schemes for construction of border roads and bridges linking up these villages, will, apart from giving some works to the people alleviate much of the difficulties of transportation of agricultural produce.

6.1 Marketing.—The Khasis and Jaintias are market minded people. Mostly they sell their produce at the farm site. They have established markets at all vantage points of the district to which they carry over sales their produce on headload for sale. On market days it is a common to see a stream of people with headloads coming to the market up and down hills from miles away.

Markets are held usually twice in every eight days of which one is a 'Sunshaver' day which is held on every eighth day and the other is a 'Chota Haree' day which is held two days ahead of the Sunshaver day. The following table shows the marketing facilities available to the rural people in the sample villages.

Table 6.1 below shows the number of markets classified according to distances from the selected villages served by them and charges per maund for transport of produces from the village to these markets.

TABLE 6.1

Charges per maund from village to market	Distance from village to market				
	5 miles	Less than 5 miles	5—10 miles	Above 10 miles	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Rs.nP. Rs.nP.					
0 00 to less	7	...	...	...	7
0 25 „ 0 50	...	1	...	...	1
0 50 „ 0 75	1	1	...	...	2
0 75 „ 1 00	1	0	1	...	2
1 00 „ 1 25	...	6	7	...	13
1 25 „ 1 50	...	1	2	3	6
1 50 „ 1 75	...	1	...	2	3
1 75 „ 2 00	...	...	...	2	2
Above Rs.2 00	...	...	...	1	1
Total ...	9	10	10	10	40

No. of villages served by—

1	'market'	10
2	markets	2
3	„	1
4	„	1

19: Assam G-5 (1958) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

4.5 The above table shows clearly that the producers have to pay heavy charges when purses are engaged which becomes inevitable particularly when the distance to market is very long or the way to the market is difficult or negotiate. The table shows that out of a total of 32 markets with which the people in the 28 selected villages use to carry on transactions, 19 are situated at a distance of 5 to 10 miles, while 13 are situated more than 10 miles away from the village. Considering the fact that transport is to be done by headload only, marketing of the agricultural produce is indeed a difficult task. The transport charges to be paid are also high. It is seen from the above table that out of the 45 markets, transport charges to as many as 11 markets work out to be higher than Rs. 2 a mound.

4.6 Co-operation - Twelve co-operative societies were met within the selected villages. Out of these as many as 7 were engaged in marketing or trading. These organisations grew up sometime earlier under direct sponsorship of Government but mostly at the initiative of the villagers themselves to meet certain situations. The following statement shows a list of the co-operative societies in the sample villages.

TABLE B-6

Name of village	Name of society	Sponsored by
(1)	(2)	(3)
1. Syndai ...	Marketing Society	Government.
2. Raitong ...	(1) Women Welfare Association.	Local people.
	(2) A Credit Co-operative Association.	
3. Nartiang ...	(1) Trading Co-operative Society.	Do.
	(2) Credit Society for the improvement of the lot of farmers.	
4. Ambi ..	Marketing Society	Government
5. Pathaikhuh ...	The Mulberry Garden Co-operative Society.	Local people
6. Mahyrshiah ...	Trading Co-operative Society.	Do.

CHAPTER—X

Summary of main findings

135 10.1. Twenty-eight villages were selected for the purpose of the survey. Out of the 28 villages selected, 10 from Border area and 9 from Project area were selected purposively while the remaining 9 were selected at random from the entire district which is referred hereafter as general area.

166 Migration from big villages was rare but some migration was reported in respect of small villages.

164 Occurrence of Malaria, influenza and dysentery is a regular phenomenon in the area. Medical facilities were not found satisfactory and
293 as much as 78 per cent of the villages have no dispensary within a
871 radius of five miles. In regard to education, the facilities cannot also
489 be said to be unsatisfactory for more than 60 per cent of the villages
482 have a Lower Primary School. Transport facilities were not satisfactory and as much as 86 per cent of the villages still depend upon primitive mode of transport, namely head load. Combined with unsuitable form of transport, is the prevalence of unduly high cost of transport.

162 10.2. The number of the families covered by the survey was 1000
161 in the Border area, and 643 in the Project area and 1004 in the General area. The average size of a village in the respective area is 1004, 889 and 1004 families. In the Border and Project areas females out number males being respectively 1076 and 1061 females per 1,000 males as against 940 females per 1,000 males in the general area.
213 Literacy is as high as 34 per cent in the border area and 31 per cent
[562] in the Project area but as low as 17 per cent in the general area. In all the areas literacy among females is very low.

162 The working population (earners and earning dependents) is as high
464 as 55 per cent in the Border area, 54 per cent in the Project area and 53 per cent in the general area. While there were no cases of unemployment in the Project and General areas, 13 persons were reported unemployed from border area.

241 10.3. 51 per cent of the families in Border area are wholly agricul-
162 tural, 35 per cent partly agricultural and 14 per cent independent of
463 agriculture. The corresponding figures for the Project area are 61, 31 and 8 per cent respectively while for the General area they are 98 per cent, 39 per cent, 1 per cent respectively.

Predominantly agricultural families constitute 67, 90 and 98 per cent of the families in Border, Project and General areas respectively.

162 10.4. 31 per cent of the families in Border area, 29 per cent in Project
423 area and 10 per cent in General area were absolutely without any land while 25 per cent, 39 per cent and 14 per cent of the families in the respective areas possessed small holding ranging from 0·24 to 2·50 acres representing 11,24 and 26 per cent of the total holding area in the respective areas. 36 per cent of the families in Border and Project areas and 41 in General area possessed medium sized holding (2 to less than 10 acres)